Recognition of Mahatma Gandhi University at Kottayam in Kerala

2885. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether University Grants Commission propose to recognise Mahatma Gandhi University at Kottayam in Kerala; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the Mahatma Gandhi University Act was amended recently by Kerala Government and whether the amended Act conforms to U.G.C. norms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) The Mahatma Gandhi University, formerly named as Gandhiji University was declared fit by the UGC to receive Central assistance subject to the condition that any grant for its institutional development will be provided only after the Act of the University is amended in accordance with the suggestion made by the UGC, and information is made available about the filling of faculty positions according to UGC norms and completion of academic and other buildings.

(b) The UGC has not so far received the amendments to the Act of the University.

Renaming of Kerala Express

2886. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of Kerala Express is going to be changed, if so, what is the proposed new name and the reasons for changing the name;

(b) whether there will be any changes in the number of bogies; and

(c) what is the number of passengers that can be accommodated in all the classes of 125|126, Kerala Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to rename the train as Kerala-Mangla Express after the areas it serves.

(b) The train is already running with 21 coaches.

(c) 160 upper class and 1070 Second class passengers can be cleared in each trip.

Additional Trains for Kerala from Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta

2887. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of additional trains that will be put into service to Kerala from Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during the ensuing summer season; and

(b) what is the number of passengers that can be accommodated in all these trains and the details of the trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) While clearance of traffic between Delhi and Kerala has been improved by increasing the frequency of Kerala Express, regular trains have been introduced from Bombay and Calcutta to Kerala. Hence no Summer Special are proposed to be run on these routes.

(b) Does not arise.

Parcel Counters in New Delhi Railway Station

2888. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of counters for the parcels coming from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala at the delivery office of New Delhi Railway Station parcel office;

(b) which of the counters is dealing with more customers; and